Reporter Tells of CIA Offer

A former New York Times reporter has said he was told in 1952 by a Central Intelligence Agency representative that CIA could arrange for him to be assigned as a Times correspondent in Moscow "if he agreed to be 'helpful' to the agency there," according to a story published in yesterday's Times.

The former reporter, Wayne Phillips, left the Times in 1961 and was unavailable for comment yesterday.

According to the Times story, Phillips says he was told by Richard A. Suter, then a CIA representative, that CIA "had 'a working arrangement' with Arthur Hays Sulzberger, then publisher of The Times, in which other reporters working abroad had been placed on the agency's payroll."

Phillips, according to the story, said Suter tried to recruit him for CIA in 1952 and 1953 when he was working at the Times and attending the Russian Institute at Columbia University in preparation for going overseas for the Times.

Negotiations between Phillips and Suter were reported to have ended after the reporter wrote directly to then CIA Director Allen Dulles asking about Suter.

Documents obtained from the CIA by Phillips under the Freedom of Information Act apparently confirm Phillips' story that CIA attempted to "develop him as a clandestine 'asset' for use in an unidentified foreign country," according to the Times story.

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the present publisher of the Times, said Friday, "I never heard of The Times being approached either in my capacity as publisher or as the son of the late Mr. Sulzberger."

In 1973, former CIA Director William E. Colby confirmed that the agency had in prior years employed journalist-agents who worked for major news organizations. In recent testimony before the House Intelligence Committee, Colby said such relationships had been ended in 1974.

Colby did say, however, that many of the major publications' journalist-agents in earlier years had been hired to gather information in East European countries and the Soviet Union where other types of agents could not be placed.

Earlier this month, former radio-television newsman Sam Jaffe said he had been approached in 1955 by a CIA representative in California prior to his being hired by CBS. According to Jaffe, this CIA man told him "if I was willing to undertake a secret assignment, I would end up in Moscow for CBS." Jaffe said he turned the offer down. CBS officials denied knowledge of any such CIA connection.

Flu Epidemic

Agence France-Presse

GENEVA, Jan. 30 — The flu epidemic in Japan has affected 600,000 to 700,000 people, but there has been no similar spread of flu in America or Europe, a spokesman for the World Health Organization said today. It was "a little late" for a serious international epidemic this year.